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Oregon Leadership on Child Care Front and Center at White House Event

White House takes a page from the Oregon playbook with recent calls to cap child care payments at 7% of a family's income and other improvements to increase access

SALEM, Ore. - During last week's [White House's States Convening on Child Care](#) in Washington, D.C., [State Representative Lisa Reynolds](#) (D-Washington County) highlighted Oregon's leadership to improve child care access and affordability for working families.

Following the state's lead, the Biden-Harris administration recently took a page from the Oregon playbook with calls to cap child care payments at 7% of a family's income, waive child care co-payments for low-income families, and improve child care providers' financial stability by paying them on time and based on enrollment instead of attendance.

"In Oregon, we understand that child care is good for our children and our economy – it's the work that makes all other work possible and I'm extremely proud of what we've accomplished as a national leader in this sector," **said Reynolds, a pediatrician, mother and chair of the Oregon House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services.** "As we move forward, it's important that national, state, and local governments continue to work together and share ideas so we can reach our goals."

This past session, the Oregon Legislature advanced several child care policies, including:

- **The Oregon Kids' Credit** (HB 3235), the state's first ever child tax credit that will provide **up to \$1000-per-child annually** to qualifying low-income families with young children;
- **The Child Care Infrastructure Bill** (HB 3005), which allocates \$50 million for child care facilities to increase access for parents and support child care workforces;
- House Bill 2683, which **expands eligibility for subsidized child care;**

- And other legislation that will **address workforce issues** and pilot new ways to provide child care in communities who have significant shortages in available slots.

Reynolds also emphasized the need for more federal dollars to expand child care programs.

“We know there is still a real gap with child care being both too expensive and not paying its providers adequately. We need to increase federal investments in this sector,” **explained Reynolds**. “I look forward to collaborating more with the administration to advance critical child care policies that support working families. Access to child care helps lift families out of poverty.”

During her visit to D.C., Reynolds met with several members of Congress to advocate for more federal dollars, including fellow pediatrician and Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, MD (CO-8). She also met with members of the Oregon federal delegation, including Representatives Andrea Salinas (OR-6), Val Hoyle (OR-4), Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1), and Earl Blumenauer (OR-3), as well as the offices of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

Joining Reynolds were Oregon community leaders Dana Hepper, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Children’s Institute, and Courtney Veronneau, Senior Political Director at Family Forward Oregon.

“It was great to meet with members of Oregon’s federal delegation to discuss our shared priorities,” **finished Reynolds**. “With more federal dollars, we can bolster the great work we’ve accomplished to increase access to child care here in Oregon. This will allow more parents to work, solve our workforce shortages, and give our little ones the support they need to grow and develop.”

Oregon State Senator Wlmsvey Campos (D-Aloha) was also in attendance at the White House meeting.

During the interim and in future sessions, Oregon Legislative Democrats will continue to work with federal, state and local partners to answer Oregonians’ call for affordable, accessible child care.

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